Message Text

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P 121425Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6577 INFO DIA WASHDC PRIORITY AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TU, US, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS ALLEGES U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

CONNECTION IN LOCAL MURDER CASE

REF: DEFATT ATHENS 111506Z DEC 74

1. IN COURSE OF PAST WEEK, ATHENS PRESS HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBLE CIA OR DIA CONNECTION WITH CHAPMAN MURDER CASE WHICH OCCURRED ATHENS AREA THREE YEARS AGO. VICTIM WAS ANN CHAPMAN, A YOUNG BRITISH JOURNALIST WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND IN VACANT LOT IN ATHENS SUBURB. GREEK CITIZEN NICHOLAOS MOUNDIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONVICTED OF HER MURDER AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

2. IN COURSE OF PAST WEEK, GREEK PRESS REPORTS THAT MOUNDIS NOW ATTEMPTING TO HAVE CASE REOPENED AND THAT VICTIM'S FATHER WILL SOON ARRIVE IN GREECE TO SUPPORT MOUNDIS' CLAIM OF INNOCENCE. PRESS SPECULATION ADVANCES THEORY THAT SHORTLY BEFORE CHAPMAN'S DEATH SHE HAD PASSED DOCUMENTS TO AN ASSOCIATE WHICH PURPORTEDLY RELATED TO U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY. INITIAL REPORTS IMPLIED CIA INVOLVEMENT, BUT TWO AFTERNOON PAPERS DECEMBER 11 PRINTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF DIA COVER SHEETS ALLEGEDLY RELATED TO DOCUMENTS PASSED BY CHAPMAN. NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT DOCUMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN FORWARDED TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE CONFIDENTIAL

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STEPHANAKIS WHO IN TURN REFERRED THEM TO BOTH MINISTRIES OF

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY CONSIST OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ARMA IN ANKARA AND OACSI HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON IN PERIOD 1961-1963.

3. EMBASSY OF COURSE WILL MAKE NO COMMENT AND INTENDS REFER ANY INQUIRIES TO GREEK GOVERNMENT AND/OR UK EMBASSY ATHENS. WE HAVE ADVISED BRITISH EMBASSY OF OUR INTENTION TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENT AND BRITISH TELL US THAT THEY CONSIDER CHAPMAN CASE TO BE CLOSED UNLESS OR UNTIL NEW EVIDENCE IS PRODUCED AND GOG DECIDES TO REOPEN IT. BRITISH ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT INTEREST IN CASE IS BEING REVIVED FOR SELF-SERVING REASONS BY SENSATION-ALIST PAPERS IN LONDON AND ATHENS. THEY CONSIDER ELDER CHAPMAN TO BE UNSTABLE AND DOUBT THAT HE HAS NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD JUSTIFY REOPENING CASE. EMBASSY WILL REPORT IMMEDIATELY IN EVENT GOG RAISES SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH US.

4. SEE REFTEL FOR EMBASSY DEFATT REPORT SAME SUBJECT. STEARNS

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